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SUPERMAN

ACTION COMICS

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY



AFTER
PANIC IN THE SKY,
THINGS GET BACK
TO NORMAL IN
METROPOLIS.
—NOT!

BY ROGER STEIN, JACKSON GURCE & DENIS RODIER

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU--IT'S BEEN A BUSY WEEK! METROPOLIS WEATHERED A BIZARRE ATTACK BY ARMED INVADERS...

...AND ITS INSTIGATOR, THE SUPER-CRIMINAL BRAIN/AC, FINALLY MET DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF OUR WORLD'S GREATEST HEROES--UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR OWN SUPERMAN! **

BUT VICTORY DID NOT COME EASILY TO THE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE FLASHY COSTUMES, AND THAT VICTORY MIGHT NOT EVEN HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE--

--WITHOUT THAT LOGISTIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT SUPPLIED BY THE BRILLIANT YOUNG BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS BECOME THIS CITY'S...

MAN OF THE HOUR

I'M CATHERINE GRANT, TONIGHT ON NEWSMAKERS, WE'LL LOOK AT THE AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LEX LUTHOR THE SECOND!

SUPERMAN created by
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JOE SHUSTER

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BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
DAN THORELAND - ASSISTANT
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR
AND A BIG ACTION COMICS
WELCOME TO
JACKSON GUICE - PENCILLER

* IN ADVENTURES #488, ACTION #675,
MAN OF STEEL #10, & SUPERMAN #60
** THE AFOREMENTIONED SUPERMAN #66
AND ADVENTURES #489... WHEW!

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"OUR FIRST GLIMPSE OF HIM CAME ON THE TARMAC OF METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT... IN THE MIDST OF THE WORST POWER BLACKOUT IN CITY HISTORY..."



"...BUSINESSES HAVE GONE UNDER AND GOOD PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS. WELL, I TELL YOU THIS..."

"...IF LEXCORP HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THAT, I AIM TO SEE TO IT THAT THOSE LOSSES ARE COVERED!"

THEY SOON FOUND OUT!

UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, LEXCORP CAPITAL FLOWED BACK INTO COUNTLESS LABORATORIES AND FACTORIES. MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN LAID OFF WERE CALLED BACK TO WORK!

METROPOLIS BEGAN TO SMILE AGAIN.

* IN ISSUE #671.

IT WAS THE CITY'S DARKEST HOUR IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE. HARD TIMES HAD STRUCK OUR FORMERLY "RECESSION-PROOF" METROPOLIS...

"...FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF LEX LUTHOR THE FIRST, AND PEOPLE WONDERED IF HIS UNKNOWN YOUNG HEIR REALLY HAD WHAT IT TAKES TO RUN ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS!"



AND IF THINGS AREN'T YET QUITE BACK TO NORMAL, WE'VE AT LEAST FOUND REASON TO CHEER. YOU CAN HEAR IT FROM THE BOARDROOMS AND THE ASSEMBLY LINES...



"...THERE'S NEW HOPE, NEW COURAGE..."

SHUNGH!!

MORE... MORE!



"AND... SOME MAY NOT GOING BACK TO A NEW LUTHOR IN TOWN!"

SHUNGH!!

MORE... PLEASE... JUST ONE MORE!





NOT OVERDOING IT, ARE YOU?

HARDLY! I FIND EXERCISE INVIGORATING. IT WON'T PLAY HOB WITH MY PHYSICAL, WILL IT?

NO.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.



I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THAT YOU HAVE SIMILAR TASTES...

...TO THE FIRST LEX LUTHOR? WELL, GENES WILL OUT, Y'KNOW!

I WASN'T AWARE THAT THERE WAS A GENE FOR WOMANIZING!



HERE, NO... I JUST BECAUSE HE HAD AN EYE FOR THE LADIES--!

FOR A LOT OF LADIES... NOT THAT ALL OF THEM WERE LADIES!

AS I RECALL, HE HAD AN EYE FOR YOU, ONCE 'PON A TIME!



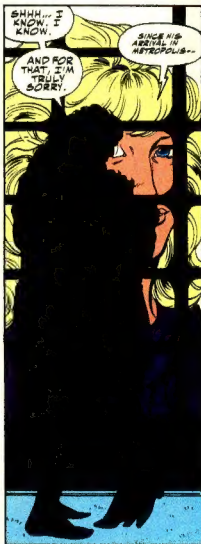
...AND NOW, BACK TO NEWSMAKERS!

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I DIDN'T SET OUT TO BECOME THE OLDER WOMAN IN HIS LIFE! IT... IT JUST HAPPENED.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU.

HE PUT YOU THROUGH A LOT, DIDN'T HE?

YOU BOTH HAVE.



SHHH... I KNOW. I KNOW.

SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN METROPOLIS--

AND FOR THAT, I'M TRULY SORRY.

-- LUTHOR HAS WORKED HARD TO FILL HIS FATHER'S LEGENDARY SHOES... COMING TO THE AID OF BOTH CITY GOVERNMENT AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.



AND NOW, WITH THE MAYHEM OF THE PAST WEEK BEHIND HIM, THE 21-YEAR-OLD HEIR IS ABOUT TO LEAP HEAD-LONG INTO METROPOLIS'S SOCIAL WHIRL--

-- HOSTING A BLACK TIE CHARITY BENEFIT TOMORROW NIGHT ABOARD THE ELDER LUTHOR'S FAMED SEA QUEEN.



WHAT?!

MORE AN OCEAN LINER THAN A YACHT, THE QUEEN WILL ENTER METROPOLIS HARBOR TOMORROW AFTERNOON IN PREPARATION FOR THE EVENING'S GALA.



SO, THE LUTHOR WHELP IS THROWING A PARTY, IS HE?

HE'LL NO DOUBT HELICOPTER FROM HIS POSH HI-TECH PENTHOUSE TO THE COMFORT OF HIS SHIP.

THESE PAST FEW WEEKS-- STUDYING THE WORLD IN WHICH YOU MOVE, MY YOUNG MR. LUTHOR-- HAVE BEEN QUITE ENLIGHTENING! YOUR INNER CIRCLE IS SO SECURE, SO LUXURIOUS--

...SO UNLIKE THIS ROTTING WAREHOUSE I HAVE HAD TO OCCUPY--



--WHILE I LABORED IN VAIN TO PLAN YOUR DEMISE!

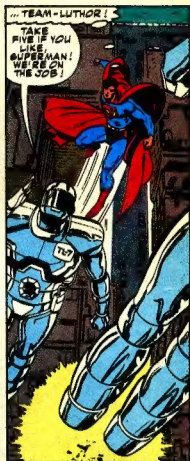
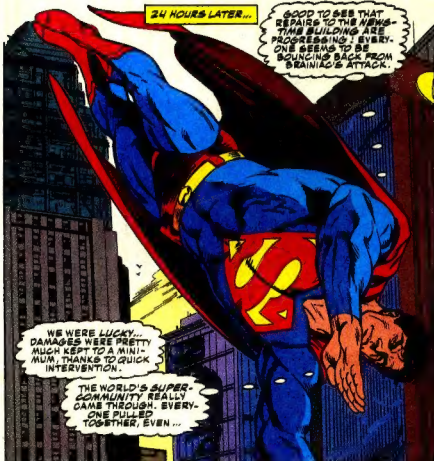
BUT MY DAYS OF FRUSTRATION SOON WILL BE OVER!



MY SCHEMATICS SHOW THAT YOUR YACHT IS FAR LESS SECURE THAN YOUR SKYSCRAPER QUARTERS, LUTHOR.

THIS PARTY WILL PROVIDE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO FULFILL MY CONTRACT TO SNUFF OUT YOUR LIFE...

... AND TO TEACH METROPOLIS TO FEAR THE HELLGRAMMITE!







"THEN, I WAS ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE TAKE-OVER IN A MUCH MORE DIRECT MANNER."

"REMEMBER HOW OUTRAGED WE WERE, WHEN WE DISCOVERED THAT LUTHOR HAD BEEN EXPECTING THE ATTACK AND HAD ORDERED HIS SECURITY TEAM TO HOLD BACK... TO SEE IF SUPER-MAN WOULD APPEAR?"

"HE INTENDED TO USE THE SITUATION AS A TEST... MY 'JOB INTERVIEW' AS IT WERE."

"HOW COULD I FORGET? BETWEEN YOUR REFUSAL TO ACCEPT HIS EMPLOYMENT OFFER, AND THE HONOR OF PUTTING YOU TO ARREST LUTHOR FOR RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT, THE OLD BOY WAS FURIOUS!"

"YES, LUTHOR BECAME MY OWN ENEMY THAT NIGHT... AND SPENT THE REST OF HIS LIFE TRYING TO KILL ME."

WELL, THIS EVENING SHOULD BE DIFFERENT!

OH? AND HERE I HAD MY JACKET CLEANED ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!

OH!! YOU!!

DO YOU KNOW HOW WORRIED I WAS ABOUT YOU THAT NIGHT?

YES, LOIS, I DO...

♪ YOU MUST'VE BEEN A BEAU-TI-FUL BA-BEE

MUST'VE BEEN A BEAU-TI-FUL

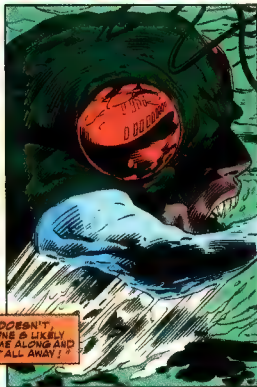
IS THAT OUR MOST SINGING?

AND PLAYING! HE MUST HAVE A TASTE FOR OLD STANDARDS!

THERE'S ONE PARTY-GOER WHO DOESN'T SEEM TO APPRECIATE THEM... THAT'S GEORGE MARKHAM, ISN'T IT?

YES... RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE WAS MANEUVERING TO BECOME LEXCORP'S NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER... UNTIL JUNIOR SHOWED UP.

SPEAKING OF WHOM... IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO FINISH THAT NUMBER. LET'S GO SAY HELLO BEFORE HE LAUNCHES INTO "FEELINGS!"





AT LONG LAST, THE AGREEMENT WHICH WAS STRUCK LAST THANKSGIVING SHALL BE FULFILLED.

AFTER ALL THESE WEEKS OF PLANNING AND WAITING, MARKHAM HAD BETTER HAVE MY FINAL PAYMENT READY, OR--!

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

WHOOSH

TEAM-LUTHOR! DID THEY SEE ME?

NO... GOOD!

THERE SHOULD BE NO FURTHER OBSTACLES NOW.

* IN ISSUE # 673.



NO WORD FROM THAT MONSTER IN MONTHS! FACE IT, GEORGE, YOU'VE BEEN TAKEN!

CLARK? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

I'M NOT SURE. FROM THE SOUND OF THINGS, A TEAM-LUTHOR SOLD JUST SHOT BY... HEADED UP RIVER AT GREAT SPEED.

MAYBE I SHOULD CHECK IT OUT--!



OH, NO, YOU DON'T!

LO-- MPH!

IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING... AND WE DESERVE A LITTLE FUN: I INTEND TO DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY WITH THE HANDSOMEST MAN IN METROPOLIS!

ANYONE I KNOW?

CHECK YOUR MIRROR.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WISH TO PROPOSE A TOAST!

TO THE LOVELY LADY WHO HAS CAPTURED MY HEART... TO METROPOLIS!

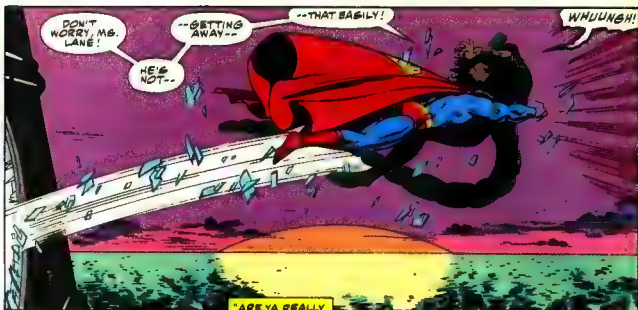
TO METROPOLIS!











DON'T WORRY, MS. LANE!

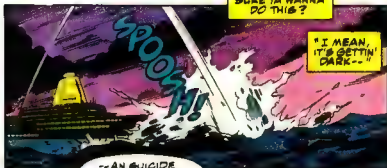
--GETTING AWAY--

--THAT EASILY!

WHUUNGH!

HE'S NOT--

"ARE YA REALLY SURE YA WANNA DO THIS?"



"I MEAN, IT'S GETTIN' DARK--"

--AN SUICIDE SLUM AIN'T THE BEST NEIGHBORHOOD IN TOWN!

IT'S SAFE, IF YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

YOU CALL THE ACEO' CLUBS SAFE?

WELL, RELATIVELY... AT LEAST, SINCE BIBBO BOUGHT IT!

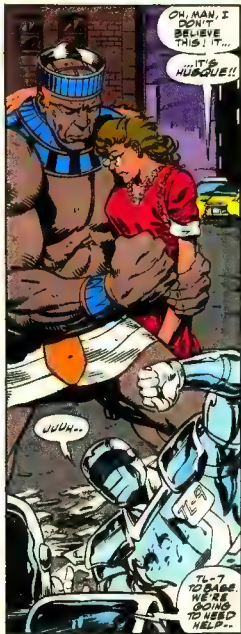


IT'S YER FUNERAL, PAL, BUT I STILL SAY--

EH? WHAT IS IT?

HOLEE--!

YOU TELL ME!



OH, MAN, I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! IT...

...IT'S HUSQUE!!

UUUH--

TL-7 TO GAGE. WE'RE GOING TO NEED HELP--



"--THIS MONSTER'S TOO MUCH FOR US!"

WELL, THAT MOVE WAS LESS THAN SUCCESSFUL! HELLGRAMITE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE AT THE SLIGHTEST DIS-ADVANTAGE UNDERWATER...

...IN FACT, HE'S SLIPPERIER THAN EVER! IF I'M GOING TO PUT AN END TO THIS I'D BETTER GET A GOOD GRIP--



--ON THE NEAREST APPENDAGE!

AH, THAT GOT HIS ATTENTION



NOW, LET'S TAKE A LITTLE TRIP TO--HEY!



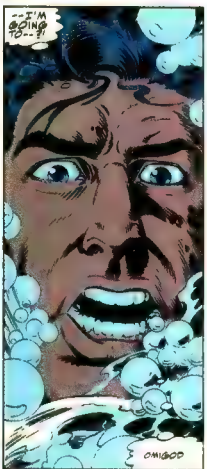
DIS-
BUSTING!

STRUGGLE ALL YOU WANT FELLA! AFTER THAT...



...NOTHING YOU CAN DO WILL MAKE ME LET GO!

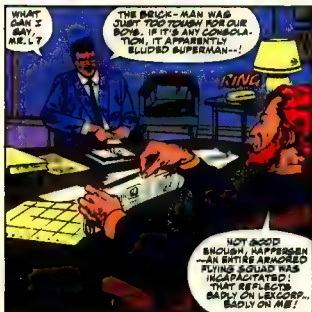
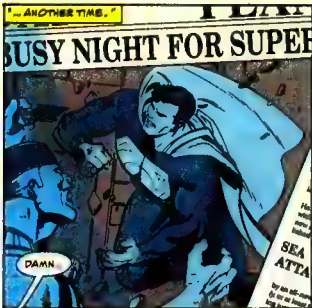
ONCE I'VE BURNT OFF THIS SUPER-GLUE OF YOURS--



--I'M GOING TO--!

OMIGOD







LEXAERO PROVING GROUNDS,
DORLAND, NEW MEXICO.
TWO HOURS LATER...

IT'S... IT'S
AMAZING, SIR!
AN ASTOUNDING
FIND --!

THAT'S WHY
WE'RE HERE.
HAPPENED
NOW, WHERE
IS IT?

STRAIGHT
AHEAD...

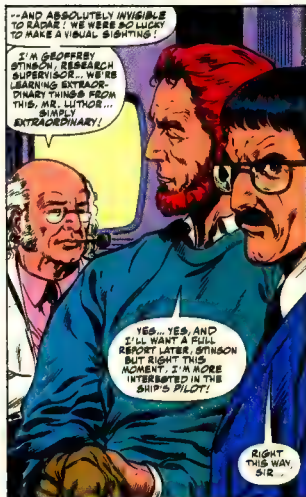


...HERE IN HANGAR
SEVEN

THAT IS THE
SPACECRAFT? I
WAS EXPECTING
SOMETHING
LARGER

REMARKABLE,
ISN'T IT? LESS
THAN FIVE METERS
FROM NOSE TO
TAIL --

--YET
POSSESSING A
PROPULSION SYSTEM
THAT BROUGHT IT
TO EARTH FROM
COUNTLESS LIGHT
YEARS AWAY --

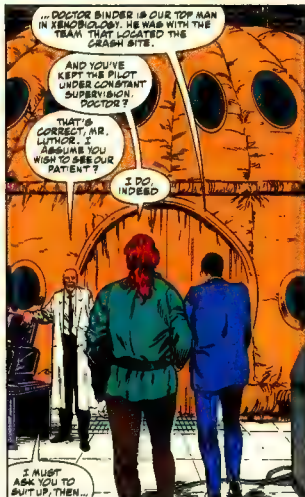


--AND ABSOLUTELY INVISIBLE
TO RADAR! WE WERE SO LUCKY
TO MAKE A VISUAL SIGHTING!

I'M GEOFFREY
STINSON, RESEARCH
SUPERVISOR... WE'RE
LEARNING EXTRAOR-
DINARY THINGS FROM
THIS, MR. LUTHOR...
SIMPLY
EXTRAORDINARY!

YES... YES, AND
I'LL WANT A FULL
REPORT LATER, STINSON
BUT RIGHT THIS
MOMENT, I'M MORE
INTERESTED IN THE
SHIP'S PILOT!

RIGHT
THIS WAY,
SIR...



... DOCTOR BINDER IS OUR TOP MAN
IN XENO BIOLOGY. HE WAS WITH THE
TEAM THAT LOCATED THE
CRASH SITE.

AND YOU'VE
KEPT THE PILOT
UNDER CONSTANT
SUPERVISION.
DOCTOR?

THAT'S
CORRECT, MR.
LUTHOR. I
ASSUME YOU
WISH TO SEE OUR
PATIENT?

I DO,
INDEED

I MUST
ASK YOU TO
SUIT UP, THEN...



WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY TRACES OF UNIDENTIFIABLE BACTERIA OR VIRUSES ON THE SUBJECT YET, BUT I'D RATHER NOT TAKE CHANCES

SUSPENDERS AND A BELT-- SH, DOCTOR?

UH... YES WELL... AS SOON AS YOU'RE READY



THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE, DR. BERNSTEIN.

HOW IS OUR PATIENT, ROBERTA?

SHOWING STEADY IMPROVEMENT, JAMES

WHAT IS HER CONDITION DR. BERNSTEIN?



MIRACULOUS, SIR. SHE CAME THROUGH THE CRASH OF HER SHIP WITHOUT A SINGLE BRUISE OR SCRATCH

SHE WAS RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS BY THE IMPACT OF COURSE--



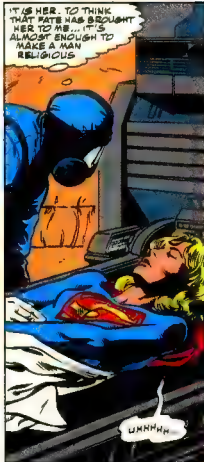
--BUT, IF HER VITAL SIGNS ARE ANYTHING LIKE OURS--AND THEY CERTAINLY SEEM TO BE--SHE SHOULD BE COMING TO SHORTLY.

I'D LIKE TO OBSERVE THE PATIENT IN PRIVATE, DR. BERNSTEIN YOU AND DR. BINDER MAY GO.

SIR? I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE--

I WASN'T ASKING FOR A FURTHER OPINION, DOCTOR

AHEM, IT'S ALL RIGHT, ROBERTA. COME ON.



IT IS HER. TO THINK THAT FATE HAS BROUGHT HER TO ME... IT'S ALMOST ENOUGH TO MAKE A MAN RELIGIOUS

UHHHH



... WHA? WHERE AM I?

AMONG FRIENDS, SUPERGIRL.



CONFUSED? DON'T WORRY... ALL WILL BE MADE FRIGHTENINGLY CLEAR NEXT ISSUE, WHEN WE REVEAL EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SUPERGIRL, AND THE MAN OF STEEL DISCOVERS THAT ALL IS FAIR...

"...IN LOVE & WAR!"

(IT'S COMICS HISTORY IN THE MAKING!)

RE: ACTION

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Dear Dan:

So here I sit staring at a blank screen somewhere between elation and paranoia. Obviously I've just finished ACTION #672 with Luthor II. Now, how do I best express my dichotomized feelings in an eloquent enough manner to put an end to the ugly conclusion the Superman titles are leading to?

To begin I should state that although I am one stubborn Canuckhead I have finally come to believe (NOT) that Luthor (I) is no longer among us.

As such, I think Luthor II has the potential to be the single best supporting-cast villain that DC has come out with. Period. End of sentence. Certain events, however, lead me to wonder if he is merely progeny or if there is some super Luthor science behind him. One example of this is his cigar penchant. Another is his knowledge of certain information only his old man knew. If I were a mite more skeptical I would almost think that Luthor I's mind is in Luthor II's body. But I now know that you people would never pull such a low, cheap, stinking and dirty rotten trick like that. I'll even promise that if Luthor II has no more of his father than most sons do, I will not only believe that the old man is dead, I'll shout the news to the mountaintops!

So, now knowing that the new Lex is as regular as a Luthor gets, let me congratulate you on his character development. I have long thought that DC needed a "normal" man who controlled his atmosphere via the ruthless nature of his mind and personality. As good, or I should say as bad, as the old Luthor was, we always knew that Superman would win any battles. At the end he was more of a whiner than a winner. This is why I want to believe we have fresh blood. It is also somewhat ironic that this character has emerged at roughly the same time that the "Kinpun" has fallen over at the competition. That rendition of this type of villain has long been one of my favorites, as I'm sure many of your readers will concur (we readers seem to have an express need to have a character we love to hate). Luthor, however, seems a fresher, younger approach and I find his manipulations almost worthy of applause. He has the desire, indeed the need, not only to succeed his father but to surpass him.

"Team Luthor" indeed! "An honor to work alongside your Special Crimes Unit"—I love it! I'm begging you to keep it up.

Just please keep Luthor I and Luthor II separate, or else I will grab my razor and personally give each and every one of you your own "Baldy Awards."

Marc Dube
Coquitlam, BC

Sorry, Marc, but—for some of us—Mother Nature has already beaten you to it!

.....

Hey, Dan:

Re: ACTION COMICS #672

Actually, yes, I do love speed lines. And I thought "All this and Lex Luthor II!" was a very fine outing. No sooner has young Luthor stepped into the spotlight than Superman is yesterday's news. Sure he's saved the city and the overall planet countless times, as well as keeping crime to a bare minimum, but who cares? That's yesterday's news. What has he done for them lately??

He wasn't there during the recent disaster. Nor could he settle the newspaper strike that has plagued Metropolis to these many months. But young Luthor already has things under control. And besides snookering the general populace, he also appears to have fooled even his most staunch doubters. This kid's trouble with a capital "T" and he'll be a very worthy adversary for the Man of Steel.

But now that there's a new Luthor on the scene (one with hair) will you be changing the Baldy into some other sort of award?!

Elvis Orten
Dawson Prime, KY

Respect for the dead, Elvis...

.....

Dear Dan:

Well, I'm afraid I'm disappointed. The super-team take a big step in killing off one of the world's most infamous super-villains, Lex Luthor (yes, I believe he's dead). Very courageous, I thought. Such a move ranks up there with the deaths of Flash and Supergirl for shock and surprise value. Then, the son is brought in and—surprise surprise—he has exactly the same name as his dad: Lex Luthor. Okay, I thought, you've got to keep the name going somehow. At least this one appears to be on the side of good.

Then came ACTION COMICS #672. What was the point of killing the original Lex off if his son turns out to be as big a villain as his dad? Nothing's changed now. Lex Luthor just has fewer wrinkles and more hair. He stands for exactly the same thing, I suppose now we'll be back to the same old treadmill of Superman fights Luthor-employed menace every second issue. Boring!

All I can say is, I hope I'm wrong, and that you have some surprise up your sleeve. So go on. Surprise me...

Gary Hellan
London, UK

.....

Dear Superpeople

I must admit that I am disappointed. Right up until the last two pages of ACTION COMICS #672 I was enjoying the story. Then you had to ruin it by revealing Luthor II's true nature.

Roger Stern had a perfect lesson to teach, that the son can avoid committing the sins of the father, but then he had to make Junior just as evil as his father. Actually, he's worse, since he's got Superman and all his friends believing that he's an angel.

You had a chance to create a new and innovative character, but you blew it. Luthor II looks to be a carbon copy of his father. I sincerely hope you can prove me wrong on this. Maybe Luthor II isn't really like his father. Maybe he's just Machiavellian like Vil Dox in L.E.G.I.O.N. '91 and the ends of his scheme are virtuous. I'm willing to give you the benefit of the doubt. Please don't make Luthor II a villain.

Howard Minikes
Brooklyn, NY

As you can see, Howard, a lot of people have a lot to say about Lex II, no matter what they think of him—proving that he's every bit as fascinating as his father! Yell at us all you want, folks, but you have to admit, we've got your attention!

.....

Dear Mr. Un-Funny

Has it been a year since Luthor was killed off? And he's still dead? At this time last year, I'd have laid odds that old Lexy would be back in six months. But you've stunned me and many other readers, I'm sure. And then you come up with a chip off the old block, too boot. Somehow, you've made Lex II as intriguing as his supposed dad without going off the track the original followed. Lex II is a little smarter than his father, possibly more ambitious,

and yet I don't believe that he was faking everything. If he's what he appears to be, he did love his foster-parents, who were obviously killed by Luthor at the appropriate time. He does care in some warped way about Metropolis. I don't trust him, mind you, but I think he may turn out to be much more complex than his old man.

If he is Luthor's son—I'm not convinced—Luthor knew about him and forgot. Or is he a clever impostor who wheedled his way into the LexCorp computers? Maybe he's even Lex Luthor the First (by way of Dr. Teng's fancy photocopy machine from the MAN OF STEEL miniseries?)

Okay, maybe I'm clutching at straws. Luthor probably lost track of his Aussie, and had all but forgotten about him, and Dr. Teng is probably languishing in a Chinese prison. But the idea that DC would kill off one of the most venerable villains does not sit well with me. Lex Luthor, the *real* Lex Luthor, is too important. That's why I still expect the truth to come any month now. But if I'm wrong, I think you've created a worthy heir to the throne of Luthorian evil.

One last note. By my count there have been nine characters named Lex Luthor: the Golden Age Luthor, the arms dealer with the full head of red hair; the Silver Age Luthor, who had a pathological hatred of Superman; his son, Lex Jr., born on the planet Luthor; the heroic Lex Luthor of an alternate Earth and his anti-matter son of the same name from the Crisis; the modern-day Luthor (may he rest in peace) and his son; and, of course, both the television and film Luthors. Each character has been slightly different, each one has a valid place, and they all have one thing in common: they can't keep a good Superman down. It's good to know that no matter how the face of evil changes, the forces of Truth, Justice, and the American Way remain as steady and as strong as Superman.

Simon DelMonte
Queens, NY

Dear Dan:

How can anyone know what good is if there is no bad to compare it to? Of course Lex II was going to be a chip off the old evil block!

But...is this Lex wholly the son of Luthor or the reciprocal to Luthor the First's essence? I still believe that Luthor set up a plan before his body's death.

I hope Bob McLeod and Denis Rodier have plans for staying around.

Melissa Page
Clarksville, TN

We hate to say it, Melissa, but as you may have noticed this issue, Bob McLeod has decided to take a break from the monthly ACTION grind to pursue other (some of them Superman-related) projects. Of course, you may also have noticed that new Super-penciller Jackson Guice will be inked by the enormously talented Denis Rodier, and their dazzling art sure takes the sting out of losing Bob, doesn't it?

To the Super-Team:

OK, I give up! I give up! God knows I tried. I tried to wait until there was a break in the storylines of the SUPERMAN titles to write, but it just hasn't happened! Gosh darn it all to heck, I'll have to write now because if I wait for a break in the ACTION, my feelings will never be known.

To sum it up, you people are incredible! I have read and collected SUPERMAN for over 20 years and, in my opinion, the last 6 1/2 years have been the most exciting and energetic period since the late 30's and early 40's. That's not to say the stuff from the 50's through the early 80's was bad. On the contrary, some of those stories are my favorites and will rank as some of the best ever; however, the post-Crisis Superman maintains a constant level of quality that make every issue of the four titles a pleasure to read.

The Carlin/Platinum age Superman will easily hold its own against the much-lauded Weisinger/Golden Age and Schwartz/Silver Age Superman. I would like to know how Mr. Carlin views Superman and how he compares his version with that of his predecessors.

Oh, by the way, I think I found out why Mike Carlin is called "Mooch" from time to time. In SUPERMAN #61 (first series), "The Man Who Discovered Kryptonite"—a.k.a. Dan "Swami" Riva—belonged to a circus and his partner's name was "Mooch" Carlin!

I also have a story suggestion. The Krypton Man, through his mental link with Superman, learns of other beings who share a link with the Man of Steel. He brings together (through psychic manipulation) the following: Matrix (in his/her Superman guise), the Evil Factory's Kryptonite Man, Lex's "Bizarro" Superman (recreated by the Krypton Man), and the Sand Superman from Walt Simonson's upcoming special). They could be called the "Superman Revenge Squad." After they defeat and capture Superman, the Man of Steel's friends get together to rescue him—heroes like The Guardian, Agent Liberty, Gangbuster, Professor Hamilton, Thorn, and Lois Lane. They could be known as the "Superman Emergency Squad!" Hahl!

One final note: belated thanks for holding the price to a dollar for as long as you did. I realize the sacrifice involved and just wanted you to know that it hasn't gone unappreciated.

Thanks again for everything, and I'll try not to wait so long before I write again.

Doug Smith
Marion, IA

You better not, Doug; we love letters as positive as yours—not to mention well researched! Indeed, the "Mooch" Carlin connection you discovered is right on the nose, and if that doesn't deserve a Baldy Award, what does?! As for the "Superman Emergency Squad," you left out one very important member...Bibbo! Boy, are his feelings hurt!

—Dan "Swami" Thorsland
The Man Who Discovered Curly Fries
(Nyuk-nyuk-nyuk!)

IN ONE WEEK: In MAN OF STEEL #11 an attempt to return Emil Hamilton goes horribly wrong when Flashpoint is sent to Metropolis instead! Things in the big city can be awful scary for the big galoot, and when he falls in with some of Metropolis's more unsavory types—grab a fire extinguisher and head for the hills! Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove, and Dennis Janke provide the sticks and marshmallows, so join us, won't you?

IN TWO WEEKS: It's bad enough that Warworld trashed half of Metropolis not too long ago, but to make matters worse, some of Warworld's troops are still around! Searching for a way to get off-planet, these goons know something that the rest of the world doesn't: a swarm of scavengers is on its way to clean up after Warworld, and the fact that we won the fight doesn't make a bit of difference...Let's just hope Superman *does*! Be here for SUPERMAN #67, by Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding.

IN THREE WEEKS: In ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #490, Professor Hamilton has become a crucial player in the turmoil on Exile World, and the only way he can return to his quiet existence in Metropolis is to reunite Husque with his long-lost sister. Even for a brilliant man like Emil, that's easier said than done! How can he do it? The answer, my friend, is blowing! In the wind! Plus: Pete Ross's political career takes a turn for the *dangerous*! By Jerry Ordway, Tom Grummett, and Doug Hazlewood.

IN ONE MONTH: Supergirl has arrived in Metropolis and is looking up a few new friends—as well as kicking the butt of a few old ones! Trust us on this one...the cover alone is worth the price of admission! And if that isn't enough to hook you, then make sure you're here for the event you've all been asking for—Sam Fawcett gets canned! Yahoo! By Roger Stern, Jackson Guice, and Denis Rodier.

That cover looks a little different, don't it? Well that's because this month marks the return of artful Art Thibert, the new cover artist on ACTION COMICS, colored away by gregarious Glenn Whitmore! Ain't that just grand! Give 'em a big hand, why don't ya!



BeastCharming: ever the gentlescan ghost